



CITY OF ALGOMA
A GREAT LAKES COMMUNITY
Live Healthy, Live Well, Live Algoma

December 14, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai and Commissioners,

The City of Algoma, WI urges the FCC not to change the way federal law has always been interpreted and to continue to require cable operators and other video providers to provide channel space and transmission of local PEG access channels at no charge to municipalities. Wisconsin municipalities are forbidden by Wisconsin statute from collecting a "PEG fee" to fund PEG-related equipment and facilities, making them completely reliant on the franchise fee to fund public, education, and government (PEG) access television. Video provider franchise fees are set by Wisconsin statute and cannot be increased or decreased from the rate a municipality received in 2008.

Our local public, education, and government (PEG) access channels serve important community needs in Algoma by providing transparency in government, informing and involving citizens in the electoral process, providing information on municipal services and serving local non-profits, schools, the business community, the local arts scene, and places of worship. The intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act as amended was to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our democracy.

PEG access channels provide communities with information from diverse sources, one of primary goals of the Cable Act, because they are open to local government, local schools, and members of the community. PEG access channels enable the public to use cable television, a mass medium, which otherwise would be closed to them, to communicate to diverse groups and to the larger community about matters of concern to them.

Allowing cable operators to set a financial value on PEG access channels, whether cost-based or market-based, that municipalities will be forced to pay is likely to cause many Wisconsin municipalities, including Algoma, to close our media centers and give back the PEG access channels due to a lack of funding.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will act decisively to protect PEG channels in our communities and protect the historic goals of the Cable Act.

Sincerely,

CITY OF ALGOMA


Jeffrey L. Wiswell, Sr.
Administrator/Clerk - Treasurer

Cc: Congressman Mike Gallagher

416 Fremont Street, Algoma, WI 54201
PH: (920) 487-5203 * FAX: (920) 487-3499
Algoma@algomacity.org * www.algomacity.org